REMARKS

Reconsideration of the subject application as amended herein is respectfully requested.

Drawing corrections

Fig. 3 has been amended by adding the legend "DATA OUT" associated with element 132 as requested by the Examiner. In Fig. 11, --side A has been changed to side B—as requested by the Examiner.

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner. In addition, the independent claims were amended to describe a method of reading discs with two sides by reading data from the center to the edge of one disc and then reading the data from the edge to the center of the next disc. This mode of operation is clearly shown in several drawings, including Figs. 1E through 1h, 1J and others. An advantage of this mode of operation, especially for the single-head operation is that it needs requires less time to switch from one side to the other. The other, applicable for both the single and the dual head operation is that there is no need to change the speed of rotation of the disc.

New claims 22-25 have been added to recite additional features of the invention as described in the specification and the figures.

Claims 10 and 11 stand rejected as being anticipated by the AAPA.

Claim 10 has been amended that the two sides are read without stopping the disc or changing its direction of rotation. This feature was certainly part of the AAPA. Claim 11 has been amended to recite a standard optical disc with data arranged conventionally in spirals on both sides. AAPA does not disclose this feature.

Claims 10, 12, 13 stand rejected as being anticipated by Yamauchi. The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Yamauchi teaches a standard optomagnetic disc on which data is written by first melting a small spot on the disc and then applying a magnetic field to magnetize the spot in one direction or another. Once data is written in this manner, it is read using a magnetic pick up, and not a laser head, as required by the claims. Obviously therefore Yamaouchi is not pertinent at all to the present invention.

The remaining claims 1, 3-8 stand rejected as being obvious over Yamauchi over Hisakado. The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. As discussed above, the Applicants respectfully disagree with the position Yamauchi discloses a disc in which data from one side is interleaved with data from the other side. There is nothing in this reference that suggests reading data from one side to the other. In addition, it is well known that data is written on magneto-optical discs, such as the one in Yamauchi, in concentric circles, not spirals. Adding Hisakadao's disclosure would merely result in an unconventional magneto-optical disc—not the laser-readable disc or a method of reading the same as defined in the claims. Moreover the suggested combination fails to teach the sequence described above and incorporated into the claims.

Claim 2 has been rejected as being obvious over the above-discussed references in combination with Ito. Ito discloses a disc with multiple layers on the same side. Importantly, as shown in Figs. 1A and 1B these layers have spirals wound in the opposite directions. However, it is obvious to any person skilled in the art that there is no practical way to read such a structure. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that this reference does not disclose a practical disc and therefore a person skilled in the art would ignore it. Moreover, even if its structure would be practical, the reference does not disclose the sequences described and claimed herein.

The claims have also been rejected as being obvious over the referenced disclosed above and further in combination with Winter. The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Winter discloses a process in which a double sided disc is read first by reading the data in a normal sequence on one side and then reading data from the other side in a reverse sequence. The data from the second side is then buffered and reversed to the normal sequence. Thus the combination of the prior art and Winter requires data to be read in a reverse sequence at least from one side. The amended claims recite that data is read in a normal, rather then a reverse sequence required by Winter, and accordingly this reference is not relevant.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject application is now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted

GOTTLIEB, RACKMAN & REISMAN, P.C.

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Tiberiu Weisz, Esq.
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 29,876